

CITY- COUNTY

Task Force on Disabilities

February 21, 2022

Task Force Members In Attendance

City

Leah Northrop, Member at Large
Paul O'Hanlon
Mark Schmeler
Joe Wassermann

County

James "Chris" Noschese, Chair
Georgia Petropoulos, Cochair
John Tague, Treasurer
Cori Frazer
Sarah Goldstein

13th Member

Paul "Rich" McGann

Task Force Members Absent

City

Janet Evans
Michelle Walker

County

Karen Warman

Staff Present

Hillary Roman, City of Pittsburgh ADA Coordinator
Danielle Nicol, Dept of City Planning Senior Secretary

Welcome & Introductions

Chris Noschese called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. and welcomed all attendees. Task Force members introduced themselves.

A. Regular business

A. Minutes approval (Dec. 2021)

- Paul O'Hanlon made a motion to approve the minutes from December 2021. The motion to approve was seconded by Cori Frazer and carried unanimously.

B. Treasurer's report

- John Tague went over the CCTFD account balances. The group currently has \$8273 available in spending for the fiscal year.
- Rich McGann confirmed his receipt of the meeting minutes.

C. Employment Committee update

- Michelle Walker, Chair of the Employment Committee, was not present to give an update.

B. Vote on adding immediate past Chair to Executive Committee

- Cori moved to accept the language John sent making the immediate past Chair of the CCTFD to the Executive Committee. Joe Wassermann seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

C. SPIN: follow-up visit with Shannon Dulaney

- Shannon Dulaney, SPIN's Head of Community Partnerships, introduced herself and her colleagues, Ted Sweeney, Director of Government Solutions, and Jason Shaffner, Operations Manager. Tosh Chambers from Innovate PGH, and Caroline Seifert from DOMI also introduced themselves to the group.
- The group began a presentation on scooter operations and upcoming changes to the program, including enhanced enforcement and more accessible options.
- Paul was skeptical that the scooters serve the folks who need "last mile" transit the most and asked the group about the demographics of users. Shannon said the age demographic was 18-40.
- Rich asked about the accessibility of micromobility programs in other cities. Shannon said that most cities are struggling with coordinating all of their micromobility transit options, but Pittsburgh is unique in their collective approach, combining many options into hubs throughout the city.
- Paul accused the City of engaging in a monopoly agreement with SPIN by only creating a pilot situation with one company. Tosh responded that each micromobility company, including bikes and mopeds, are the only in operation respectively so that DOMI can better control for outcomes and coordination.
 - Paul pointed out that unlike bicycles though, SPIN scooters are the only scooters permitted within City limits.
 - Tosh said that while SPIN scooters are technically the only scooters permitted, the police department is not actively enforcing restrictions.
- The group resumed their presentation and went over some of SPIN's general operations and deployment policies, they included contact information for scooter enforcement.
- Paul requested proof that SPIN's response time is three hours. Tosh responded that they cannot provide data on every instance of violation. Jason added that enforcement against ADA violations is SPIN's biggest priority.
- Paul asked for information on purported injuries to residents from scooters. Shannon responded that they don't have that information available for presentation.
- SPIN then presented their new seated vehicle option. This option has been deployed in San Francisco and may be released in Pittsburgh.

- The seated option can include three wheeled options as well as baskets and places for canes.
 - Under the library model, the vehicles could be prearranged and delivered to consumers.
- Leah Northrop emphasized that the group would appreciate an opportunity to have an open forum with SPIN where the CCTFD can ask questions.
 - Paul added that he does not want the outcome of this meeting to look like meaningful community engagement with the group.
 - He continued that the seated option presented was not viable for people with disabilities.
- Tosh explained how complaints and requests are dealt with via the 311 system and other report mechanisms.
- John asked about how SPIN can enforce speed limits on the scooters, which can reach 15 mph. He was specifically concerned about injuries to pedestrians.
 - Shannon said that “geofencing” allows for SPIN to control how fast or slow scooters can go in certain areas. If people request a certain area to become a “slow ride zone,” the company can control that.
- John asked how SPIN enforces illegal riding and parking on sidewalks. Ted responded that they have a human team that connects to the ride and can issue consequences to the rider, including banning them from the service.
- Paul asked for injury report data. Ted offered that they could bring that data back at another time.
- Paul asked whether SPIN could determine when scooters are on sidewalks. They cannot currently, but this technology is in development, Tosh said.
- Rich requested that scooters only go as fast as the average walking pedestrian. Shannon responded that since the service is pay-per-minute, riders would end up paying much more for service at the average speed of four mph. She added that scooters should be compared to bicycles instead of pedestrians.
- In response to a question from Paul, Tosh informed the group that the pilot stage is still in effect for SPIN scooters. DOMI will need to gather more data about public reception to scooters before the pilot is over around the two-year mark.
- Paul demanded that Move PGH have more disability representation and accused them of not doing due diligence gathering public feedback from the disability community.
- Rich requested that more deafblind folks are engaged. Shannon said that scooters can detect when a person with a cane hits the scooter and gives the person walking this feedback.
- Leah said that the community needs every safety precaution possible and that she is dismayed that this program increases mobility for some and takes it away from others.
- Chris brought up how difficult it is for Deaf folks to know when a vehicle on a shared path with pedestrians is behind them, signaling them to move.
- Paul asked when fully accessible scooters would be available, the group did not have a response.

- Mark Schmeler added that a scooter with a seat doesn't improve accessibility in a meaningful way. Also, having a light on the scooter doesn't necessarily help people who are blind or low vision, especially since, in his experience, scooter riders anticipate that everyone can see them.
- Chris thanked the group for coming.

D. City Planning, DOMI, and Port Authority: Greater Hill District master plan mobility discussion—Struck from the meeting for time

E. Community updates

A. Report on community meeting with Gainey Administration

- John reported that he was working on a community forum with Oakland for All and the new administration in addition to a small group meeting that recently took place.
- He felt that the small group meeting went favorably.
- Tina Calabro, who was also in attendance, agreed that the meeting went well. Some folks in attendance were members of the Task Force, others were longstanding community advocates. The group provided the administration background on how disability issues have affected Pittsburghers.
- Next steps are continued planning for a larger community forum and following up on the recommendations the group made to the Gainey Transition Committee.
- Tina would like the CCTFD to put together a Gainey Transition Team committee.

B. Sidewalk dining legislation

- Tina wants the Task Force to write a letter to the Pittsburgh Post Gazette thanking City Council for making sidewalk dining legislation more accessible. Leah agreed to write the letter with Tina's help.

C. Eradicate Hate forum

- Leah has been trying to find experts to help diversify the Eradicate Hate forum. She created a Google document that people can use to add suggestions.
- Rich added information about Pittsburgh Action Against Rape.

Adjournment

Rich made a motion to adjourn, it was seconded by John and the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Relevant links and information:

- YouTube link with closed captioning: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4nvAvrekXU>